Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 23 with the following:

A pull, or polling, mechanism involves the client periodically contacting the server to determine if any new information is available. The client polling setup is completely controlled by the client, and the polling rate must generally be established a priori to accommodate the worst possible scenario. The communications network bandwidth used by this pull mechanism is proportional to the number of clients. But because of the a ~~prior~~ priori establishment of poll rates, during periods of light workloads with a small number of clients, network resources are underutilized. Similarly, during periods of heavy workloads beyond the expected worst case scenario, network resources are overloaded by the client polling mechanism; this congestion leads to significant degradation of the service and potentially complete failure. Therefore, an inherent scalability constraint exists due to the limited traffic capacity of the network.

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